

CHAPTER NO. 489

SENATE BILL NO. 112

By Kurita

Substituted for: House Bill No. 554

By McMillan, Head, Brenda Turner

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68 and Title 71, relative to care provided to patients in nursing homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, is amended by adding Sections 2 and 3 of this act as a new Part 17.

SECTION 2. (a) The general assembly finds that:

(1) A disabled volunteer may be able to provide assistance in improving the services provided by Tennessee's nursing homes; and

(2) The use of a disabled volunteer in a nursing home could greatly benefit the volunteer as well.

(b) It is the intent of the general assembly in enacting this part to determine what roles and responsibilities that a volunteer with a disability could effectively assume in a nursing home and to provide for the establishment of a demonstration project to confirm the value of a disabled volunteer in a long term care facility.

SECTION 3. (a) The Commissioner of Health is hereby authorized to develop, in conjunction with representatives of the Tennessee Health Care Association, the Tennessee Disability Coalition and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, a framework that delineates the functions that a disabled volunteer could safely assume in a nursing home, to establish appropriate goals and objectives for a demonstration project and to implement and evaluate a twelve-month demonstration project.

(b) The commissioner is further authorized to identify one (1) nursing home willing to implement the demonstration project. The commissioner shall report on the effectiveness of the demonstration project to the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee and the House Health and Human Resources Committee no later than March 1, 2006.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: March 31, 2004



JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 12th day of April 2004



PHIL BREDEBEN, GOVERNOR